WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Salt industry under priority sector

*144. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to include salt industry under the priority sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the total production of common salt in the country per annum;

(d) whether it is a fact that iodisation of salt has been successful and large scale units have entered into salt production; and

(e) if so, what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Industry has been addressing itself to the task of promoting the interests of salt industry. Consequently, there has been a tremendous step-up in the production of iodised salt. In order to enable it to avail itself of concessional credit from public sector banks, it has been decided to include salt industry in priority sector. Manufacture of salt is largely in the small scale sector.

(c) The total production of common salt in the country during the year 1987 is estimated at 99 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) The Salt Iodisation Programme has been successful. While the policy of the Government is to encourage setting up of small scale units for iodisation of salt, a few large scale units have also taken up manufacture of iodised salt. It may further be added that more than 90 per cent of iodised sat is manufactured in the small scale sector.

Recommendations of the Chari Committee

*145. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1412 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on various recommendations made by the Chari Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Transmission Corporation

*147. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Transmission Corporation to work out an integrated approach to the power transmission needs of different regions in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposed set up of the Corporation; and

(c) whether the regional power grids are also proposed to be integrated under the above scheme to ensure equitable distribution of power in all the regions?